

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5-13 and 16 are amended for clarity. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,558,006 (Ioka). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Each of independent claims 1 and 6-13 recites an image that is projected into an overlap area. That is, as recited in the claims, an image is projected into an overlap area by correcting an image signal.

Ioka fails to disclose projecting an image into the overlap area, but instead discloses projecting images so that portions of a plurality of images overlap one another in order to display images seamlessly.

At page 5 of the Office Action, the Patent Office asserts that Applicants' arguments are based on the facts that (1) Ioka does not teach projecting an image on the overlap area, and (2) Ioka does not teach an overlap-area detecting means. Applicants disagree with these contentions.

Ioka fails to disclose the presently claimed projection area correction means. In particular, the image correcting unit 13 of Ioka performs corrections concerning various types of output characteristics such as geometric deformation compensation, color irregularity compensation, color difference compensation, shading compensation, bias compensation and gamma compensation. See col. 5, line 64 - col. 6, line 3 of Ioka. Nonetheless, Ioka fails to disclose correcting an image signal so that an image is projected into the overlap area.

Furthermore, the projection means, as recited in the independent claims, projects an image into an area which corresponds to the overlap area. On the contrary, Ioka's projection means projects an image on the portions other than the overlap area. Moreover, the projection means, as recited in the independent claims, may sufficiently secure the brightness

of an image by projecting an image into an area which corresponds to the overlap area. Nonetheless, with the technique of Ioka, the brightness of the overlap area is different from that of the portions other than the overlap area. Accordingly, Ioka requires an extra step of correcting the brightness so that the overlap area and other portions have the same brightness. See col. 8 of Ioka.

Furthermore, the presently claimed projection area detecting means detects, in order, the projection area, the virtual overlap area and the overlap area. Ioka fails to disclose the projection area detecting means, as recited in claims 1 and 16. Furthermore, Ioka fails to disclose "determining a peak position that is a brightest position," as recited in claims 2 and 14. Furthermore, the Office Action fails to assert that (or explain where or how) Ioka discloses these features.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 1 and 6-13, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are not anticipated by Ioka.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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